



An Abstract of his Maiesties Commission, granted the

tenth day of July 1624. vnder the Great Seale of England, taken forth the 25 of Septemb. 1624,

a Duplicare of the said Commission, by John Chambers Citizen and Mercer of London, dwelling at the signe of the Hand and Bible in Rood-lane neere Fanchurch-street in London, where the Commissioners may assemble if they please,

for the reliefe of the poore Prisoners in the severall Prisons of the Marshall seale, White-Lyn, Compter in Southwarke, Clink, New-Prison, the Compter in Woodstreet, the Compter in the Poultrey Lulgate, Newgate, Gatehouse, S. Katherine, White-Chappel, Brim-hurst, and Finsbury, or any of them, published to moue in all Creditors whom it may concerne, an obedient conformance to his Maiesties Gracious Will and Charitable Inclination.



The Parts of the Commission are foure.

- 1 The persons who are Commissioners authorised.
- 2 What sort of Prisoners are to be relieved.
- 3 The meanes and manner of the reliefe it selfe.
- 4 The punishment and compulsiue power vpon such as submit not.

The two Chiefe Iustices, and other the Iustices of either Bench.

The Barons of the Exchequer.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Masters of Requests.

The Kings Serjeants at Law.

The Attourney Generall.

The Solicitor Generall.

The Surueyor of the Lineries.

The Attourney of the Court of Wards.

The Attourney of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Receiver of the Court of Wards and Lineries.

1 The Commissioners are diuers.

The Deane of Paules.

The Deane of Westminster.

The Recorder of London.

The Archdeacons of London and Middlesex.

The Masters of the Chancery.

The Clarke of the Crowne, or Chiefe Clarke of the Kings Bench.

Sir Nicholas Fortescue Knight.

Sir William Pitt Knight.

Sir Thomas Bennet Knight.

Sir William Cockaine Knight.

Sir Edward Barkham Knight.

Sir Peter Proby Knight.

William Gore } Aldermen of London.
John Gore }

Sir Baptist Hickey Knight and Barones.

Sir Thomas Fowler Knight.

Sir William Slingsby Knight.

Sir John Bingley Knight.

Edward Forcet Esquire.

Sir Edmond Bowyer Knight.

Sir George Paule Knight.

Sir Thomas Grymes Knight.

Richard Swaine Esquire.

Edward Stapleton Esquire.

William Rauenscroft Esquire.

2 The Prisoners to be relieved are not all in generall: for his Maiesty giueth caution to the Commissioners, to bee circumspect to try and finde out wilfull and obstinate Debtors, that rather want will then meanes to satisfie, and in no wise to suffer them to partake of his grace and mercy: but such onely are to be releued as follow:

- 1 Such as are truly and indeed poore, wanting meanes to satisfie.
- 2 Such whose imprisonment hindreth satisfaction, and auaileth the Creditor nothing.
- 3 Such as lye in prison vpon any personall Action, Iudgement, or Execution.
- 4 Such of them onely, whose Debt, Damage, or Execution exceedeth not 200 pounds principall debt, without forfeiture or other penalty.

3 The meanes and manner of the reliefe ariseth out of the authority giuen by his Maiesty to the said Commissioners.

1 That the said Commissioners, or any three of them, at any time or times, so often as to them shall seeme conuenient, may assemble and meet together in some conuenient place, in or neere the City of London, for execution of the said Commission. And they are expressly charged and commanded, for the better expedition and accomplishment of his Maiesties charitable intent and will, so to assemble themselves, as they tender his Maiesties pleasure. And they may proceed in the execution thereof from time to time, albeit the same Commission bee not from time to time continued by adiournment.

2 That they, or any three of them, may by warrant vnder their hands, call before them as well some person sufficiently instructed on the behalfe of the Prisoner, as also the Creditors, and such others as haue the benefit of such Actions, Suits, Iudgements, and Executions, and the Executors, Administrators, and Attourneyes of euery of them, and all other persons whatsoever, to whom it shall appertaine, or some persons sufficiently authorized and instructed on their behalfe, whom his Maiesty doth thereby charge and command to appeare before them vpon such their Warrants. Provided, that they shall not call before them any Creditor dwelling aboute tenne miles from the City of London, but onely in the Tearme times, and seuen dayes before, and tenne dayes after euery Tearme.

3 That at their meetings they are to receiue the Supplications and Complaints of the Prisoner, and by all lawfull wayes and meanes to informe themselves, as well of the due Debt, Damage, and Dury, for which such Action, Suit, Plaint, Iudgement, or Execution is, or shall be prosecuted, obtained or gotten; as of the certaine state and abilitie of the Prisoner, how to pay and discharge the same. And thereupon by all good and lawfull wayes and meanes, to treat, perswade, mediate, and procure compositions, and agreements with the Creditors, and other persons, hauing the benefit of such Actions, Suits, Iudgements, or Executions.

4 That some of the Iudges of that Court, by or from which the prisoner shall be committed, shall be priuy and consenting to the conclusion of such Compositions and Agreements. And that such of the said Commissioners as shall goe about such Compositions, shall doe their best endeauors, that the poore prisoners by their meanes and mediation may be relieved, and haue such reasonable yeares, and dayes of payment, for such their Debts and Damages as they shall not be presently able to satisfie, and with such security for payment thereof, as in Equity and good Conscience (hauing respect to the ability of the Prisoner, the charge of Wife and Children, and other incidents in such pious cases considerable) they shall thinke fit.

4 The punishment and compulsiue power is two-fold.

1 Against such Creditors, and others, that shall refuse to appeare vpon the Commissioners said Warrants: or appearing, shall not attend the Commissioners further pleasure. So that they, or any three of them, vpon due consideration of the nature and quality of the refusal and contempt, may take such order for punishing of the same, and for procuring such persons appearance as to them shall be thought meet.

2 Against such Creditors, and others, refusing to yeeld to, and performe such moderate and reasonable Compositions and agreements, wherein they may vse all lawfull wayes and meanes, to cause and procure the said Creditors, and others, to yeeld to take and to performe such moderate and reasonable Compositions and agreements as by them, or any three of them, shall be thought meet, and set downe.

Remember them that are in bonds, as though ye were bound with them. Heb. 13. 3.

At the House of John Chambers aboue-said you may haue Warrants ready printed.

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